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Letter dated 29 October 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter addressed to you from His Excellency Mr. George Iacovou, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 45, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Andreas MAVROMMATIS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Cyprus to the United Nations

ANNEX

Letter dated 28 October 1991 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cyprus to the Secretary-General

I have read with concern the letter dated 21 October 1991 addressed to you from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey circulated as an annex to General Assembly and Security Council document A/46/584-S/23156, dated 21 October 1991.

This letter was intended to reaffirm the Turkish Government's position on Cyprus and "to clarify in this light" its understanding of the various elements in Security Council resolution 716 (1991). It explained that Turkey had certain "reservations and objections" and that its contributions are made on the basis of "bringing into proper perspective the dimensions of the solution being sought under the good offices mission of the Secretary-General".

Having expressed what Turkey "wishes to believe" was not the intention of the Security Council with reference to its resolution 716 (1991), it proceeds with its untenable interpretation of parts of the resolution and reiterates its objection to certain aspects of the Secretary-General's report (S/23121) of 8 October 1991, which was endorsed by paragraph 1 of Council resolution 716 (1991).

It is my belief that, at this stage and before a new Government assumes office in Turkey, a detailed reply to the points raised in the aforementioned letter should not be given. I would, however, like to place on record that given their nature, Security Council resolutions cannot be subjected to arbitrary or selective interpretation to sustain one's position or be subject to preconditions.

It is axiomatic that parties involved in efforts, in accordance with the Charter for the peaceful settlement of disputes, cannot unilaterally impose preconditions to progress or limit the discretion of the Secretary-General in the discharge of his mission of good offices.